

## The Times

(MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY)  
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## WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 16.

## Maybe It Is a Biocrat.

Some of the Autocrat's personal friends are beginning privately to complain that he is getting altogether more than his fair share of obloquy and public condemnation on account of his suppression of the House of Representatives. They declare that severe criticism of his course comes with an ill grace from the Democratic party, some of whose representatives in the Congress willingly and deliberately went into the scheme with him from the start. Beyond that it is claimed for him that he is acting strictly under the orders of the "business manager," who has registered the edict of the trusts and monopolies that nothing shall even be considered in the Capitol until the tariff lobby is complete, and they have their plunder safely in sight.

The President is credited with a desire to have something done about Hawaiian taxation; but it is said that he may not win the matter, because Senator Hanna, been assured by the real governing power of the country that the tariff of this must be handed over on a gold plate before it will allow Mr. McKinley to make any suggestions whatever.

All the foregoing may be true; but we entertain a horrible suspicion that, like most inspired ruminations and reports from the seat of autocracy, all of it is but a tissue of lies. It is just possible, of course, that Senator Hanna and the Autocrat are pulling together, and that they constitute a kind of a complex political being in the nature of a biocrat; but that is a little too much to believe, and, for the President's sake, we decline to believe it, officially at least, for the present. Because we want to say, with conviction, intensified by grief, that if the Autocrat-Hanna of the House turns out to be a Biocrat, and that particular sort of Biocrat, "why, then," the Executive "will swiftly and silently vanish away and never be heard from again!"

## President McKinley's New Rule.

From the time when Chester A. Arthur left the White House there has been an unwritten law that the President shall not pay visits except to his cabinet ministers. This rule has been strictly adhered to for many years. The President has paid no calls and attended no dinners given by Washington people, unless at the house of the Vice President or a member of the cabinet.

President McKinley, however, has stepped over this rule, without seeming even to know that it was there, as he has done with several other more or less flimsy and unreasonable customs. He went to the reception given to Senator Morrill the other evening, and seemed not to think that he was doing anything but what he ought to do, as surely he was not. Senator Morrill is one of the venerable and honored figures in public life, and it is fitting that even a President should attend a reception given in his honor. It was a kindly and gracious thing to do.

Of course the original reason of this rule was not altogether that the President might be placed on a pedestal, high above all the people, for them to worship with out hope of return, or to hedge him with un-American formality. It was partly that he might not be bothered with the petty jealousies and forms of society, in addition to his arduous public work. It might reasonably be argued that if a small circle of friends were singled out, among whom the President moved with the freedom he would use in his own home, not only would others be jealous, but there would be a little danger of a sort of kitchen cabinet. It might be thought that the rivalry of officeholders to get within official range of the President would be enough, without adding to these a multitude of toady-hunters. But undoubtedly the main reason was a sense of ceremony. The Queen of England never visits a subject; it is not to be supposed that our President is of less consequence than England's queen; ergo, let our President not visit a citizen.

But England and America are not the same country. They are separated by more than a hundred years and the whole Atlantic Ocean. President McKinley evidently thinks that it will not hurt his dignity to mingle with the populace as much as he can with safety. As to the social complications of the question, he will probably steer clear of any such. His tact and kindness of heart are great, and they are likely to serve him well in this, as in other emergencies.

British troops in Crete must have given some indication of humanity, since the Turkish governor of Candia has filed a protest against their conduct.

If it be true, as the Spanish organ La Lucha, of Havana, states, that military men credit the report of a growing disposition in Spain to sell the island to the Cubans for \$100,000,000, it must be plain to everybody else that the Spaniards do not regard their chance to hold the country as worth a hundred mills.

Genuine, old-fashioned Democracy is as lively as a cricket in Kentucky. The Democrats in the legislature declare that they will vote for a Republican rather than a gold brick "orocrat." Right they are! A declared enemy is often worthy of respect; domestic treason never is.

In the Pennsylvania legislature a resolution to investigate a serious parliamentary scandal was kept under in the senate, while, on the same day, the lower house passed one to investigate the penal institutions of the State. Doubtless the object of the second movement is to find out if the penitentiaries are really enough to justify going on with the first.

The Mississippi floods offer the greatest argument of the day in favor of free lumber. If this Government had any sense lumber would be maintained on the free list, even if everything else down to a man's religious convictions were taxed to death. A protective tariff on lumber means the accelerated extinction of American forests.

BOY PLAYS BUTCHER.

As a Result Mrs. Rudd's Baby Was Nearly Killed.

Richmond, Va., April 16.—Linwood Rudd, four-year-old son of Mrs. Mattie Rudd, Seventh street, Manchester, Va., yesterday attacked his baby brother, one year old, with a large butcher knife, and when the mother, attracted by her baby's screams, rushed into the room the boy stood over him with the bloody knife, while the baby was almost unrecognizable from the numerous wounds profusely bleeding.

The boy, when asked why he did it, said he was only playing butcher. Some of the wounds are very severe, but it is thought the baby will recover.

## BLACK'S BILL FINDS FAVOR

Civil Service Measure Approved by New York Politicians.

BOTH PARTIES SATISFIED

The Governor Claims It Will Not Lower the Tests—Insists That It Be Passed—Republican Machine Politicians and Tammany Leaders United—Hints of Spoils Division.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The civil service bill, which is being fathered by Gov. Black, is the main topic of discussion in political circles. The machine politicians of both the Republican and Democratic parties are delighted with the measure, which, if passed by the legislature and held to be constitutional, will restore the spoils system in the distribution of offices.

Abraham Gruber, the head of the "Civil Service Progressive Association," a strong Republican organization which has been seeking the repeal of the existing civil service law, said: "The bill is good, but it does not go far enough. There ought to be some provision in it that would prevent the civil service boards from asking silly questions. It ought to be provided that the governor or the majority of cities should go over the civil service commissioners' questions and strike out those that are not practical. The bill is a step in the right direction, however, and ought to be welcomed by all good citizens. It gives heads of departments power which they need for the good of the service. Some people say that heads of departments cannot be trusted to award fair percentages. Let me tell you that this kind of talk is undermining our government. Let the people once get impressed with the idea that heads of departments cannot be trusted to make good appointments and what will become of our government?"

The Tammany machine generally are as much pleased with the bill as they are. They believe it means a complete restoration of the spoils system, and they expect to be the beneficiaries next year. Surprise has been expressed that either Tammany or the Republican machine must rule Greater New York, and that the winner will make a fair division of the spoils. The leaders of both machines know that they can get nothing in the way of offices if the Citizens' Union movement succeeds, so it is believed they have decided that that movement must be defeated in any event. It is not believed that any formal agreement has been made, but it is evident from the talk of the politicians on both sides that they are determined that one of the machines must win.

The bill meets the hearty approval of the Tammany district leaders. Ex-Senator G. W. Plunkett, the Tammany leader of the Fifth district, said: "It is a good bill, but it does not go half far enough. I would abolish the whole civil service machine. The politicians should hold the offices. They are honest, for the moment a politician becomes dishonest the people throw him down. There are more civil service reformers in the prison than politicians. I have so much confidence in the honesty of politicians that I would favor the enactment of a law making a theft of the people's money punishable by death. Say, if that were the law, you would see mighty few politicians chattering at the end of a rope or sitting in the chair at Sing Sing."

Corporation Counsel Scott said: "Gov. Black does not mean to revolutionize the civil service law, but to abolish it. If the bill becomes a law and the courts do not declare it unconstitutional, the heads of the departments may appoint any-by-the-office, and the civil service examinations will be a farce. The appointing power can give the man wanted 50 per cent for fitness, and if he gets only 10 per cent for merit, he can secure a higher percentage than the man who gets 70 per cent for merit, for the appointing power can give the latter only 5 per cent for fitness."

"It would be better to openly abolish the law and return to the spoils system than to have given examinations. While I have given the matter no consideration, it seems to me at first sight that the bill is clearly in violation of the civil service section of the State constitution."

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The civil service commissioners of New York city, accompanied by a delegation of civil service reformers, went to Albany yesterday and protested to the judiciary committee of the senate and the assembly against the passage of the bill, which, they said, would undo the work of their board.

Now that they have received the hint from Gov. Black, the legislature is expected to pass the measure without loss of time.

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The Brothers Skelton Successfully Resist an Attempted Arrest.

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Gout, Neuralgia, and Dyspepsia Cured With Polynice Oil BY INOCULATION.

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## Eisenmann's

Daily Bargain Bulletin.

Great Easter Specials for Saturday.

The values which we shall offer are genuine indeed, and cannot be equaled anywhere else. Being makers of all kinds of K&A, J&A, E&A, G&A, we are enabled to sell you the goods at prices other merchants have to pay to manufacturers; thus we save you the middleman's profit.

Lot of Children's (3 to 7 years) Reefers Suits—all wool and prettily trimmed—all sizes, but not in any one sort—suits which are worth \$4.98—for

\$1.98 each.

Lot of Boys' Blue Flannel Suits—all wool—worth a dollar—to go for

59c each.

Lot of Boys' Fine Flannel Suits—all wool—worth \$4.98—to go for

\$2.98 each.

Boys' Mother's Friend Shirt Waists—to go for a day at

49c each.

Boys' 29c Silk Reefers Ties—long and wide—to go for

19c each.

Lot of Children's Tam O'Shanter and Yachties to go for—

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Men's 4-ply 2100 Linen Collars—all styles—15c each.

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Take Them Again Tomorrow.

Bring in the boys tomorrow. The same very special values will be continued, because we weren't able to wait on everybody yesterday.

The privilege of easy payments is yours when you wish it, and you don't have to be the accommodated or pay extra for it.

(Roller Skates with suits at \$2.98 up.)

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